

House Resolution 673

By: Representatives Lindsey of the 54th, Richardson of the 19th, Ralston of the 7th, Fleming of the 117th, Willard of the 49th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of Clifford Oxford; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most dedicated lawyers and community
3 servants with the passing of Clifford Oxford on February 28, 2007; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a highly motivated and intelligent young man, Clifford attended night classes
5 at Emory University School of Law, and he served five years as an attorney for the Judge
6 Advocate General's office with the Army Air Corps and three years as an attorney for the Air
7 Force; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he joined the Atlanta Jaycees in 1946, and, after being elected public affairs
9 chairman, was charged with heading a committee to seek laws to unmask the Ku Klux Klan
10 in Atlanta, a task that he pursued tirelessly, recruiting the aid of lawyers and civic
11 organizations throughout the city; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he succeeded during a time when confronting the Ku Klux Klan was not a
13 popular movement, and in 1949, the Atlanta City Council adopted an ordinance forbidding
14 the wearing of masks on city streets; and
- 15 WHEREAS, for his efforts, Clifford was named "Atlanta's Young Man of the Year" and
16 selected by *Time* magazine as one of the "100 Leaders of Tomorrow"; and
- 17 WHEREAS, during the early 1950's, his mother suffered a nervous breakdown and she was
18 placed in the Georgia Mental Hospital in Milledgeville; horrified by the conditions there,
19 Clifford helped found and served as president of the Georgia Association for Mental Health;
20 and
- 21 WHEREAS, he was a champion of the community, and his leadership was instrumental in
22 such as developments as the fluoridation of Atlanta's water for the health of children, the

1 establishment of the MARTA transit system, the abolishment of the old county unit voting
2 system, the founding of the Georgia State University College of Law, and the establishment
3 of a traffic school for first time offenders; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2001, the GSU College of Law presented Clifford with its eighth Ben F.
5 Johnson Public Service Award, which honors a Georgia lawyer whose life reflects selfless
6 public service.

7 WHEREAS, his devotion to his community was surpassed only by his unshakeable love for
8 his family, and his survivors include a loving daughter, Glo Elizabeth Oxford; two
9 grandsons; a step-grandson; a step-granddaughter; and three great-grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, in life he commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians; at his death it is
11 fitting and proper that we extend sympathy to his family, colleagues, and friends.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of
14 Clifford Oxford and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Clifford
17 Oxford.